~~E~~ DIALOGUE

What day is this?
It's Wednesday.
Do we have a song for Wednesdays.

For rewrite.

TIM and JOE.

TIM

So you don't want to join us?

JOE

I think best not.

TIM

Why?

JOE

I don't know. I'm allergic to mattresses.

TIM

Ahuh.

JOE

Well, Tim. Do you have any telephone numbers?

TIM

Telephone numbers?

JOE

That's right. Telephone numbers.

TIM

Old ones. Slightly used.

JOE

In good condition?

TIM

I'm not sure.

JOE

Could you introduce me?

TIM

Sure, Joe. (Goes to phone. Thinks. Dials)

JOE

How long ago?

TIM

Last summer. (No answer.)

JOE

Ah, well.

TIM

I have one more. (Dials)

JOE

I appreciate this.

TIM

If you need comfort, we'll get you comfort. Hello? Is Miss Foley there? (Pause) Ann? ~~Ann~~ Ann Foley? Tim. I'm fine. (Pause.) No, I can't. (Pause.) No, Ann, I really can't. I'd like to, though. (Pause.) Let me explain. I'm engaged, uh, to a lady fr gr cheer from Stonington, Connecticut. I have a friend here though — I have a friend here. He badly needs good company. Can I introduce him? Ann, this is Joe Tyler. (Hands phone to Joe.)

Joe

Hello? Yes, this is Joe. You sound very nice. What? Yes, I'm an old friend of Tim's. We even crashed in an airplane together. (Pause) Well can I tell you about it at work? Where do you work? Fine! See ya! What time? All right. What are you wearing? Okay, see you then. Bye. (Hangs up)

Tim

Very cool.

Joe

Don't you think?

Tim

Yeah.

Joe

Thanks a lot.

Joe

Glad I could.

WINNIE loves Tim.
[redacted] TIM is the nucleus.
JEAN wants a baby.
BLOG is the prophet.
JOE has no job.

Fingering of Jean's bust.

That White Crud Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Characters.

Tim.

Winnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Blog.

Hal. (Tim's father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1957.

That White Trud Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Characters.

Tim.

Winnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Bloss.

Hal. (Tim's father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1927.

Setting in detail: Mattresses for eight people cover the floor.

Around them are ranged bookshelves, small dressers, a hi-fi set, a hatrack. On the hatrack are BLOG's clothes. TIM dresses from a small cabinet, to which a rod is attached holding his suit. The girls dress out of the closet in [illegible] off the bathroom R. (Closet and bathroom doors need not be onstage.) Off left is the fromt door and the kitchen. A kitchen chair is in the room, though, for goodness knows what reason. On a bookshelf by JEAN's mattress is a full-sized clay head she is modelling.

Characters in detail:

JEAN, 20. Artistic. Is currently a filing clerk with downtown insurance adjusters. [illegible] Left college after three years.

WINNIE, 21. Pretty, pleasant and sincere. Taking her M.A. Phi Beta Kappa.

TIM, 22. Fairly straightforward and personable. Honors.

JOE, 23. Loafing. Probably he has a broken heart, which nevertheless does not figure in this play. Flunked out. There was no reason for it.

BLOG, 22. High Honors.

SPECIAL EXPLANATION OF BLOG. Blog started all this. His talk and mannerisms were the keynote of the ideas and hopes of six months ago. A monolithic poseur, yet open and sincere, he is a perfect anal type. Studying for his M.A.

Setting in detail: Mattresses for eight people cover the floor.
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a batrack. On the batrack are BLOG's clothes. TIM dresses from
a small cabinet, to which a rod is attached holding his suit.
The girls dress out of the closet in [redacted] off the
bathroom R. (Closet and bathroom doors need not be onstage.)
Off left is the front door and the kitchen. A kitchen chair
is in the room, though, for goodness knows what reason. On
a bookshelf by JEAN's mattress is a full-sized clay head she is
modelling.

Characters in detail:

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town insurance adjusters. [redacted] left college
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and mannerisms were the keynote of the ideas and hopes of
six months ago. A monolithic poseur, yet open and sincere.
He is a perfect anal type. Studying for his M.A.

(Lights out. Ringing. Lights up. The ringing is an alarm clock. Sleeping on mattresses, with blankets, are WINNIE, TIM, BLOG and JOE. Stirrings.)

JOE

Nuts.

TIM (slowly arising.)

Ung.

JEAN

Half an hour more.

WINNIE

No. You're late that way.

JEAN

My boss never notices.

WINNIE

We need the money. Up! Up!x

(JEAN does not stir.)

TIM (leaps to his feet. Sings.)

Morning, morning, golden and blue;

April morning, welcome to you!

(Lights out. Ringing. Lights up. The ringing is an alarm clock. Sleeping on mattresses, with blankets, are WINNIE, TIM, BLOG and JOE. Stirrings.)

JOE

Nuts.

TIM (slowly arising.)

Unc.

JEAN

Half an hour more.

WINNIE

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JEAN

My boss never notices.

WINNIE

We need the money. Up! Up!x

(JEAN does not stir.)

TIM (leaps to his feet. Sings.)

Morning, morning, golden and pure;

April morning, welcome to you!

WINNIE

It's January. The morning can go to hell.

TIM (louder)

Morning, morning, say that it's true--
Beautiful queen of the day!

(He sits down on mattress again. BLOG raises himself,)

BLOG

It is the morning time!

(JEAN kisses him. TIM lights a cigarette. WINNIE bursts out laughing because JOE is tickling her.)

JEAN

Blah. Old horsemeat.

BLOG

Please!

WINNIE (hiding under pillow.)

Go away. Gummer nid snoddel gulb.

JOE (lifting pillow)

What did you say?

WINNIE

It's January. The morning can go to hell.

TIM (louder)

Morning, morning, say that it's time--

Beautiful queen of the day!

(He sits down on mattress again. BLOG raises himself.)

BLOG

It is the morning time!

(JEAN kisses him. TIM lights a cigarette. WINNIE bursts out laughing because JOE is tickling her.)

JEAN

Blah. Old boresweat.

BLOG

Please!

WINNIE (hiding under pillow.)

Go away. Summer mid snodgel
bulb.

JOE (lifting pillow)

What did you say?

WINNIE

I wish to contemplate my pillow! Go brush your teeth.

JEAN

You, too.

BLOG

This is an affront.

JEAN

It tasted like a behind. Go make your ablutions.

(He goes.)

TIM (singing and dressing.)

Come, with your magic,
And charm sadness away--
Morning, morning, golden and blue--
Bringing another fine day!

WINNIE (uncovering)

Hosanna. Today we have an lecture by Vernon L. Parrington.

TIM

How is that course?

WINNIE

Middling plus. I ought to get a B.

WINNIE

I wish to contemplate my pillow! Go brush your teeth.

JEAN

You, too.

BLOG

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(He goes.)

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TIM

How is that course?

WINNIE

Middling plus. I ought to get a B.

TIM

How many credits?

WINNIE

Five on that, two on the stupid art course. Six more and I am a Master of Arts.

JOE

Glory and grandeur.

WINNIE

After that I can demand egg in my beer.

TIM

Speaking of which, how will you have your eggs?

WINNIE

As you will.

TIM

Oregano and nutmeg?

WINNIE

Sounds horrible. Fine.

(TIM goes. BLOG comes back.)

TIM

How many credits?

WINNIE

Five on that, two on the stupid art course. Six more and I am a Master of Arts.

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As you will.

TIM

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WINNIE

Sounds horrible. Fine.

(TIM goes. BLOG comes back.)

BLOG

It is snowing out. All is whiteness. All is whiteness.

JOE

It is an omen. It is an augury.

WINNIE

Which gods do you suppose are responsible? Get up, Jean.

JEAN

You're cruel.

WINNIE

You may thank me some day. (JEAN leaves.)

BLOG

It was probably a joint effort of many gods. Maybe there is a god of six-sided white crystals.

JOE

And a god of scenic decoration?

BLOG

Perhaps. Maybe it deserves an investigation.

(BLOG is dressing. Over his shorts he pulls coveralls. When the coveralls have been snapped shut at the wrists and neck, he puts on an egg-shaped red felt hat.)

BLOG

It is snowing out. All is whiteness. All is whiteness.

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JEAN [illegible]

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Perhaps. Maybe it deserves an investigation.

(BLOG is dressing. Over his shorts he pulls coveralls. When the coveralls have been snapped shut at the wrists and neck, he puts on an egg-shaped red felt hat.)

JOE

Blog,
Now that I behold your full splendor, I begin to make some sense out of this movement.

BLOG

There is sense. Do you see? Ahhh. (Postures.)

JOE

The pose is unnecessary. But are you going the street like that?

BLOG

I am studying today. In the other room.

JOE

When is your job?

BLOG

Tonight. Four nights a week. But to be a busboy I dress incognito.

JOE

Why should you be a busboy, anyway?

BLOG

The pay is good for the hours worked. And I steal food.

JEB

Blog.

Now that I behold your full splendor, I begin to make some sense out of this movement.

BLOG

There is sense. Do you see? Ahhh. (Postures.)

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JOE

Why should you be a busboy, anyway?

BLOG

The pay is good for the hours worked. And I steal food.

JOE

Don't you get enough to eat here?

BLOG

We all get enough to eat here. What we eat is what I steal.

JOE

You mean last night's dinner?

BLOG

Last night's stew was mostly from components prepared at the Hampton Court Beefburger Inn on Sixth Avenue. It was steak stew.

JOE

What if they catch you?

BLOG

There is no catching. The cook is one of the Good People. Tim had the job before he started working full time.

JOE

When is your next class? And what in?

BLOG

I am taking a seminar in Comparative Ethnology at the New School. Tomorrow next.

JOE

Don't you get enough to eat here?

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We all get enough to eat here. What we eat is what I steal.

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JOE

It sounds like <u>your</u> kind of a course.

BLOG

The instructor is also one of the good people.

JOE (plonkingly)

That's wonderful.

TIM (offstage)

BREAKFAST!

JEAN (entering)

Take it and shovel it.

BLOG

Breakfast.

JOE

No, thanks.

BLOG

Zorch. (Exits.)

JOE

Good <u>morning</u>.

JEAN

Happy new year.

JOE

It sounds like your kind of a course.

BLOG

The instructor is also one of the good people.

JOE (plonkingly)

That's wonderful.

TIM (offstage)

BREAKFAST!

JEAN (entering)

Take it and shovel it.

BLOG

Breakfast.

JOE

No, thanks.

BLOG

Bored. (Exits.)

JOE

Good morning.

JEAN

Happy new year.

JOE

Is something wrong, Jean?

JEAN

I'm tired.

JOE

You've earned a good rest. Too bad you can't have it.

JEAN

You could be nicer when you say that. You seemed to be enjoying our hospitality last night.

JOE

Well, I don't really see any reason to be so allfired pagan about your way of life.

JEAN

I would have thought you had enough to do without [illegible] letting your eyes wander.

JOE

It was my ears. I couldn't close them. I seem to have lost the knack.

JEAN

I thought you were on our side.

JOE

Is something wrong, Jean?

JEAN

I'm tired.

JOE

You've earned a good rest. Too bad you can't have it.

JEAN

You could be nicer when you say that. You seemed to be enjoying
our hospitality last night.

JOE

Well, I don't really see any reason to be so afflicted pagan about
your way of life.

JEAN

I would have thought you had enough to do without [illegible] letting your eyes wander.

JOE

It was my eyes. I couldn't close them. I seem to have lost the knack.

JEAN

I thought you were on our side.

JOE

I do sympathize. It's just rather unsettling at close quarters.

JEAN

Very funny.

JOE

I'm sorry. Winnie's really a very fine girl. I guess I'm just not really reconciled to this business of sleeping in heaps.

JEAN

Well, you've been here before.

JOE

Yes, but I never stayed over.

JEAN

Ah.

JOE

And are you happy?

JEAN

Is that a fair question?

JOE

That's an answer.

JOE

I do sympathize. It's just rather unsettling at close quarters.

JEAN

Very funny.

JOE

I'm sorry. Winnie's really a very fine girl. I guess I'm just not really reconciled to this business of sleeping in hedges.

JEAN

Well, you've been here before.

JOE

Yes, but I never stayed over.

JEAN

Ah.

JOE

And are you happy?

JEAN

Is that a fair question?

JOE

That's an answer.

JEAN

No it isn't. Ask anybody on the street if he's happy. He'll have to go home and think it over and prepare a statement.

JOE

Not necessarily. He might say no without bothering to think.

JEAN

Yes, he might.

JOE

Are you happy?

JEAN

Damned if I know.

JOE

All right, then.

(TIM enters.)

TIM

There are still great quantities of breakfast.

JOE

[illegible] What is there?

JEAN

No it isn't. Ask anybody on the street if he's happy. He'll have to go home and think it over and prepare a statement.

JOE

Not necessarily. He might say no without bothering to think.

JEAN

Yes, he might.

JOE

Are you happy?

JEAN

Damned if I know.

JOE

All right, then.

(TIM enters.)

TIM

There are still great quantities of breakfast.

JOE

[illegible] What is there?

TIM

Scrambled eggs. Stew. Shredded wheat, Raisin bran, Orange juice, milk, coffee, marmalade, cheese, stuffed olives, rice pudding. white wine.

JEAN

We finished the rice pudding last night.

TIM

Oh. Thank god.

JOE

What kind of coffee?

TIM

Instant, Italian or Perk Pot.

JOE

And all that breakfast?

TIM

Anyway, most of it. If you hurry.

JOE

The idea has improved with age. Excuse me. (Goes.)

JEAN

Tim?

TIM

Scrambled eggs. Stew. Shredded wheat, Raisin bran, Orange
juice, milk, coffee, marmalade, cheese, stuffed olives, rice pudding.

JEAN

We finished the rice pudding last night.

TIM

Oh. Thank god.

JOE

What kind of coffee?

TIM

Instant, Italian or [redacted] Pot.

JOE

And all that breakfast?

TIM

Anyway, most of it. If you hurry.

JOE

The idea has improved with age. Excuse me. (Goes.)

JEAN

Tim?

TIM

Yes?

JEAN

Have we been suceessful?

TIM

Why do you ask?

JEAN

I want to know.

TIM

And you have your doubts. Why do you ask now?

JEAN

Joe asked me.

TIM

And you looked deep into your soul.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

What do you think?

TIM

Yes?

JEAN

Have we been successful?

TIM

Why do you ask?

JEAN

I want to know.

TIM

And you have your doubts. Why do you ask now?

JEAN

Joe asked me.

TIM

And you looked deep into your soul.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

What do you think?

JEAN

I don't know.

TIM.

You shrivel with the shame of your sin.

JEAN

Don't be silly.

TIM

Do you feel it's been time wasted?

JEAN

Not particularly.

TIM

But you want something more.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

Can you say what?

JEAN

I could tell you.

JEAN

I don't know.

TIM.

You arrived with the shame of your sin.

JEAN

Don't be silly.

TIM

Do you feel it's been time wasted?

JEAN

Not particularly.

TIM

But you want something more.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

Can you say what?

JEAN

I could tell you.

TIM

All right. (Pause.) What?

JEAN

Tim, you're not a woman.

TIM

I'm very sympathetic, though.

JEAN

What were your plans for this?

TIM

I supposed you remember as well as I do.

JEAN

Let me hear you say it the way you did then.

TIM

I need my feet up on a table and a beer in my hand.

JEAN

Go ahead, Tim.

TIM

The plans were just what the hell. If it works hoorah. If it doesn't, so what. (Pause.) Those were the plans.

TIM

All right. (Pause.) What?

JEAN

Tim, you're not a woman.

TIM

I'm very sympathetic, though.

JEAN

What were your plans for this?

TIM

I suppose you remember as well as I do.

JEAN

Let me hear you say it the way you did then.

TIM

I need my feet up on a table and a beer in my hand.

JEAN

Go ahead, Tim.

TIM

The plans were just what the hell. If it works boorah. If it doesn't, so what. (Pause.) Those were the plans.

JEAN

Those were the plans. And what else?

TIM

What what else?

JEAN

What was going to happen after we all got an apartment, when we were sleeping in heaps?

TIM

Anything.

JEAN

Like?

TIM

I suppose, like other people coming to join us. Like Joe.

JEAN

Would you say he's joined us?

TIM

Making converts always takes time. Look at Mohammed, look at Buddha, look at J.C.

look at Schicklgruber,

JEAN

Are we like them?

JEAN

Those were the plans. And what else?

TIM

What what else?

JEAN

What was going to happen after we all got an apartment, when we were sleeping in beds?

TIM

Anything.

JEAN

Like?

TIM

I suppose, like other people coming to join us. Like Joe.

JEAN

Would you say he's joined us?

TIM

Making converts always takes time. Look at Mohammed, look at Buddha, look at J.C.

JEAN

Are we like them?

~~Before end.~~

K

(WINNIE and BLOG)

BLOG

Winnie!

WINNIE

Hi.

BLOG

It's snowing out.

WINNIE

Yes.

BLOG

I haven't been with you for some time.

WINNIE

That's true.

BLOG

I have missed you!

WINNIE

You are fine too.

BLOG

I am too fine! I have been lonely.

WINNIE

Haven't we all.

BLOG

I do not want to study any more! I wish to do something.

WINNIE

Let's go to the Museum of Natural History.

BLOG

Nature is good. You are good.

WINNIE

You're just fine, Blog.

BLOG

Let us go now, you and me.

WINNIE

Fine. I better wear Tim's galoshes. (They exit.)

BLOG (offstage)

Look out the window! See all the whiteness!

WINNIE (offstage)

That white crud is snow, darling.

BLOG (offstage)

Truly.

CURTAIN

F. Klein

(WINNIE & TIM)

(WINNIE kisses him, thoroughly. When it is over they smile:)

TIM

Good morning.

WINNIE. Tim?
TIM. What?

WINNIE

I love you, Tim.

TIM

I love you. I love all of us.

WINNIE

Do you always have to generalize?

(kisses him on the neck, emphatically.)

TIM

What is this?

WINNIE

Do you mind?

TIM

I'm merely puzzled. Go right ahead.

WINNIE

Tim?

TIM

Right here.

WINNIE

Can I have a baby?

(TIM walks away thinking; he whistles.)

TIM

We're not married.

WINNIE

~~We haven't been regarding~~ Is this suddenly relevant? ~~for a relevant.~~

TIM

Babies are large.

WINNIE

Are we?

TIM

Hmm?

WINNIE

Are we a group? Is there enough to us?

TIM

I don't know yet.

WINNIE

It's getting late. Six months now.

TIM

Maybe six months isn't long enough to tell.

WINNIE

Maybe it is, Tim.

TIM

You think it hasn't worked?

WINNIE

In some ways it has. But if this group is going to work we'll have to be all the way.

TIM
So you want a baby.
WINNIE
Uh-huh.
TIM
It ought be dangerous for the kid.
WINNIE
It's a chance we take or we don't.
(Pause.) All right, big man - let's get back
to first principles. Why did we take this
apartment in September.
TIM
We wanted to live better.
WINNIE
And what was going to happen.
TIM
If you want to make it sound silly,
it won't be hard.

That White Crud Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Theodor Nelson

Characters.

Tim.

Winnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Blog.

Hal. (Tim's father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1957.

That White Cord Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Characters.

Tim.

Minnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Blog.

Hal. (Tim's father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1927.

That White Crud Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Theodor Nelson

Characters.

Tim.

Winnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Blog.

Hal. (Tim's father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1957.

That White Cloud Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Theodor Nelson

Characters.

Tim.

Wimple.

Joe.

Jean.

Blog.

Hal. (Tim's Father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1927.

THAT WHITE CRUD

IS SNOW, DARLING

An ideology and seven people and a moral,
all in one thin act.

by Herman C. Grubnik.

Characters:

JEAN. Artistic. Currently a filing clerk.

WINNIE. Pretty & sincere. Taking her M.A.

TIM.

JOE.

BLOG. Requires a special explanation, which will be withheld.

His mannerisms and talk started it all. A monolithic

poseur, but open and sincere. Going to graduate school.

HAL (Tim's father.)

Setting:

Mattresses on the floor. Bookshelves, dresser, hi-fi set,

hatrack. Kitchen chair.

(BLACKOUT.

A voice recites:)

Come let us build us new gods,
New gods of alarm clocks and towers;
With children and cheese in a small city flat
We will sleep in a heap, and wear flowers.

(Silence; the theater is still dark. Then, monstrously, AT GREAT VOLUME, we hear

THE GREAT GATE AT KIEV.)

Voices: Oh, no.

For god's sake, turn it off!

We're awake already!

Uhhhh.

(The music is turned down. The curtains part, revealing WINNIE, TIM, JEAN, JOE and BLOG, who are variously arising from the mattresses that cover the stage.)

Characters:

JEAN. Artistic. Currently a filing clerk.

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Voices: Oh, no.

For god's sake, turn it off!

We're awake already!

Uhhhh.x

(The music is turned down. The curtains part, revealing WINNIE, TIM, JEAN, JOE AND BLOG, who are variously arising from the mattresses that cover the stage.)

(Lights out. Ringing. Lights up. The ringing is an alarm clock. Sleeping on mattresses, with blankets, are WINNIE, TIM, BLOG and JOE. Stirrings.)

JOE

Nuts.

TIM (slowly arising.)

Ung.

JEAN

Half an hour more.

WINNIE

No. You're late that way.

JEAN

My boss never notices.

WINNIE

We need the money. Up! Up!

(JEAN does not stir.)

TIM (leaps to his feet. Sings.)

Morning, morning, golden and blue;

April morning, welcome to you!

(Lights out. Singing. Lights up. The ringing is an alarm clock. Sleeping on mattresses, with blankets, are WINNIE, TIM, BLOG and JOE. Stirrings.)

JOE

Nuts.

TIM (slowly arising.)

Ung.

TRAN

Half an hour more.

WINNIE

No. You're late that way.

TRAN

My nose never notices.

WINNIE

We need the money. Up! Up!x

(TRAN does not stir.)

TIM (leaps to his feet. Sings.)

Morning, morning. Golden and blue:

April morning, welcome to you!

WINNIE

It's January. The morning can go to hell.

TIM (louder)

Morning, morning, say that it's true--
Beautiful queen of the day!

(He sits down on mattress again. BLOG raises himself.)

BLOG

It is the morning time!

(JEAN kisses him. TIM lights a cigarette. WINNIE bursts out laughing because JOE is tickling her.)

JEAN

Blah. Old horsemeat.

BLOG

Please!

WINNIE (hiding under pillow.)

Go away. Gummer nid snoddel gulb.

JOE (lifting pillow)

What did you say?

WINNIE

It's January. The morning can go to hell.

TIM (louder)

Morning, morning, say that it's true--

Beautiful queen of the day!

(He sits down on mattress again. BLOG raises himself,)

BLOG

It is the morning time!

(EXAN kisses him. TIM lights a cigarette. WINNIE bursts out laughing because JOE is tickling her.)

JEAN

Blah. Old horsemeat.

BLOG

Please!

WINNIE (hiding under pillow.)

Go away. Gummer nid snoddel gulb.

JOE (lifting pillow)

What did you say?

WINNIE

I wish to contemplate my pillow! Go brush your teeth.

JEAN

You, too.

BLOG

This is an affront.

JEAN

It tasted like a behind. Go make your ablutions.

(He goes.)

TIM (singing and dressing.)

Come, with your magic,
And charm sadness away--
Morning, morning, golden and blue--
Bringing another fine day!

WINNIE (uncovering)

Hosanna. Today we have an lecture by Vernon L. Parrington.

TIM

How is that course?

WINNIE

Middling plus. I ought to get a B.

WINNIE

I wish to contemplate my pillow! Go brush your teeth.

JEAN

You, too.

BLOG

This is an affront.

JEAN

It tasted like a behind. Go make your ablutions.

(He goes.)

TIM (singing and dressing.)

Come, with your magic,
And charm sadness away--
Morning, morning, golden and blue--
Bringing another fine day!

WINNIE (uncovering)

Hosanna. Today we have an lecture by Vernon L. Parrington.

TIM

How is that course?

WINNIE

Middling plus. I ought to get a B.

TIM

How many credits?

WINNIE

Five on that, two on the stupid art course. Six more and I am a Master of Arts.

JOE

Glory and grandeur.

WINNIE

After that I can demand egg in my beer.

TIM

Speaking of which, how will you have your eggs?

WINNIE

As you will.

TIM

Oregano and nutmeg?

WINNIE

Sounds horrible. Fine.

(TIM goes. BLOG comes back.)

TIM

How many credits?

WINNIE

Five on that, two on the stupid art course. Six more and I am a Master of Arts.

102

glory and grandeur.

WINNIE

After that I can demand egg in my beer.

TIM

Speaking of which, how will you have your eggs?

WINNIE

As you will.

TIM

Oregano and nutmeg?

WINNIE

Sounds horrible. Fine.

(TIM goes. SLOT comes back.)

BLOG

It is snowing out. All is whiteness. All <u>is</u> whiteness.

JOE

It is an omen. It is an augury.

WINNIE

Which gods do you suppose are responsible? Get up, Jean.

JEAN

You're cruel.

WINNIE

You may thank me some day. (JEAN leaves.)

BLOG

It was probably a joint effort of many gods. Maybe there is a god of six-sided white crystals.

JOE

And a god of scenic decoration?

BLOG

Perhaps. Maybe it deserves an investigation.

(BLOG is dressing. Over his shorts he pulls coveralls. When the coveralls have been snapped shut at the wrists and neck, he puts on an egg-shaped red felt hat.)

BLOG

It is snowing out. All is whiteness. All is whiteness.

JOE

It is an omen. It is an augury.

MINNIE

Which gods do you suppose are responsible? Get up, Jean.

JEAN

You're cruel.

MINNIE

You may thank me some day. (JEAN leaves.)

BLOG

It was probably a joint effort of many gods. Maybe there is a god of six-sided white crystals.

JOE

And a god of needle decoration?

BLOG

Perhaps. Maybe it deserves an investigation.

(BLOG is dressing. Over his shorts he pulls coveralls. When the coveralls have been snapped shut at the wrists and neck, he puts on an egg-shaped red light hat.)

JOE

Blog,
Now that I behold your full splendor, I begin to make some sense out of this movement.

BLOG

There is sense. Do you see? Ahhh. (Postures.)

JOE

The pose is unnecessary. But are you going the street like that?

BLOG

I am studying today. In the other room.

JOE

When is your job?

BLOG

Tonight. Four nights a week. But to be a busboy I dress incognito.

JOE

Why should you be a busboy, anyway?

BLOG

The pay is good for the hours worked. And I steal food.

JOE

Now that I behold your full splendor, I begin to make some sense out of this movement.

BLOG

There is sense. Do you see? Ahhh. (Gestures.)

JOE

The pose is unnecessary. But are you going that?

BLOG

I am studying today. In the other room.

JOE

When is your job?

BLOG

Tonight. Four nights a week. But to be a busboy I dress incognito.

JOE

Why should you be a busboy, anyway?

BLOG

The pay is good for the hours worked. And I steal food.

JOE

Don't you get enough to eat here?

BLOG

We all get enough to eat here. What we eat is what I steal.

JOE

You mean last night's dinner?

BLOG

Last night's stew was mostly from components prepared at the Hampton Court Beefburger Inn on Sixth Avenue. It was steak stew.

JOE

What if they catch you?

BLOG

There is no catching. The cook is one of the Good People. Tim had the job before he started working full time.

JOE

When is your next class? And what in?

BLOG

I am taking a seminar in Comparative Ethnology at the New School. Tomorrow next.

JOE

Don't you get enough to eat here?

BLOG

We all get enough to eat here. What we eat is what I stank.

JOE

You mean last night's dinner?

BLOG

Last night's stew was mostly from components prepared at the Hampton Court Beefburger Inn on Sixth Avenue. It was stew.

JOE

What if they catch you?

BLOG

There is no catching. The cook is one of the Good People. Tim had the job before he started working full time.

JOE

When is your next class? And what is?

BLOG

I am taking a seminar in Comparative Ethnology at the New School. Next Tuesday

JOE

It sounds like <u>your</u> kind of a course.

BLOG

The instructor is also one of the good people.

JOE (plonkingly)

That's wonderful.

TIM (offstage)

BREAKFAST!

JEAN (entering)

Take it and shovel it.

BLOG

Breakfast.

JOE

No, thanks.

BLOG

Zorch. (Exits.)

JOE

Good <u>morning</u>.

JEAN

Happy new year.

JOE

It sounds like <u>your</u> kind of a course.

BLOCK

The instructor is also one of the good people.

JOE (plonkingly)

That's wonderful.

TIM (offstage)

BREAKFAST!

LEAN (entering)

Take it and shovel it.

BLOCK

Breakfast.

JOE

No thanks.

BLOCK

Bored. (Exits.)

JOE

Good <u>morning</u>.

LEAN

Happy New Year.

JOE

Is something wrong, Jean?

JEAN

I'm tired.

JOE

You've earned a good rest. Too bad you can't have it.

JEAN

You could be nicer when you say that. You seemed to be enjoying our hospitality last night.

JOE

Well, I don't really see any reason to be so allfired pagan about your way of life.

JEAN

I would have thought you had enough to do without [redacted] letting your eyes wander.

JOE

It was my ears. I couldn't close them. I seem to have lost the knack.

JEAN

I thought you were on our side.

JOE

Is something wrong, Jean?

JEAN

I'm tired.

JOE

You've earned a good rest. Too bad you can't have it.

JEAN

You could be nicer when you say that. You seemed to be enjoying our hospitality last night.

JOE

Well, I don't really see any reason to be so allfired pagan about your way of life.

JEAN

I would have thought you had enough to do without [illegible] letting your eyes wander.

JOE

It was my care. I couldn't close them. I seem to have lost the knack.

JEAN

I thought you were on our side.

JOE

I do sympathize. It's just rather unsettling at close quarters.

JEAN

Very funny.

JOE

I'm sorry. Winnie's really a very fine girl. I guess I'm just not really reconciled to this business of sleeping in heaps.

JEAN

Well, you've been here before.

JOE

Yes, but I never stayed over.

JEAN

Ah.

JOE

And are you happy?

JEAN

Is that a fair question?

JOE

That's an answer.

JOE

I do sympathize. It's just rather unsettling at close quarters.

JEAN

Very funny.

JOE

I'm sorry. Minnie's really a very fine girl. I guess I'm just not really reconciled to this business of sleeping in barns.

JEAN

Well, you've been here before.

JOE

Yes, but I never stayed over.

JEAN

Ah.

JOE

And are you happy?

JEAN

Is that a fair question?

JOE

That's an answer.

JEAN

No it isn't. Ask anybody on the street if he's happy. He'll have to go home and think it over and prepare a statement.

JOE

Not necessarily. He might say no without bothering to think.

JEAN

Yes, he might.

JOE

Are you happy?

JEAN

Damned if I know.

JOE

All right, then.

(TIM enters.)

TIM

There are still great quantities of breakfast.

JOE

What is there?

JEAN

No it isn't. Ask anybody on the street if he's happy. He'll have to go home and think it over and prepare a statement.

JOE

Not necessarily. He might say no without bothering to think.

JEAN

Yes, he might.

JOE

Are you happy?

JEAN

Depend if I know.

JOE

All right, then.

(TIM enters.)

TIM

There are still great questions of breakfast.

JOE

What is there?

TIM

Scrambled eggs. Stew. Shredded wheat, Raisin bran, Orange juice, milk, white wine, coffee, marmalade, cheese, stuffed olives, rice pudding.

JEAN

We finished the rice pudding last night.

TIM

Oh. Thank god.

JOE

What kind of coffee?

TIM

Instant, Italian or Pot.

JOE

And all that breakfast?

TIM

Anyway, most of it. If you hurry.

JOE

The idea has improved with age. Excuse me. (Goes.)

JEAN

Tim?

TIM

Scrambled eggs. Stew. Shredded wheat. Raisin bran. Orange juice, milk, coffee, marmalade, cheese, stuffed olives, rice pudding.

JEAN

We finished the rice pudding last night.

TIM

Oh. Thank God.

JOE

What kind of coffee?

TIM

Instant. Italian or Swiss Pot.

JOE

And all that breakfast?

TIM

Anyway, most of it. If you hurry.

JOE

The idea has improved with age. Excuse me. (Goes.)

JEAN

Tim?

TIM

Yes?

JEAN

Have we been successful?

TIM

Why do you ask?

JEAN

I want to know.

TIM

And you have your doubts. Why do you ask now?

JEAN

Joe asked me.

TIM

And you looked deep into your soul.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

What do you think?

TIM

You?

JEAN

Have we been successful?

TIM

Why do you ask?

JEAN

I want to know.

TIM

And you have your doubts. Why do you ask now?

JEAN

Joe asked me.

TIM

And you looked deep into your soul.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

What do you think?

JEAN

I don't know.

TIM.

You shrivel with the shame of your sin.

JEAN

Don't be silly.

TIM

Do you feel it's been time wasted?

JEAN

Not particularly.

TIM

But you want something more.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

Can you say what?

JEAN

I could tell you.

JEAN

I don't know.

TIM.

You arrived with the shame of your sin.

JEAN

Don't be silly.

TIM

Do you feel it's been time wasted?

JEAN

Not particularly.

TIM

But you want something more.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

Can you say what?

JEAN

I could tell you.

TIM

All right. (Pause.) What?

JEAN

Tim, you're not a woman.

TIM

I'm very sympathetic, though.

JEAN

What were your plans for this?

TIM

I supposé you remember as well as I do.

JEAN

Let me hear you say it the way you did then.

TIM

I need my feet up on a table and a beer in my hand.

JEAN

Go ahead, Tim.

TIM

The plans were just what the hell. If it works hoorah. If it doesn't, so what. (Pause.) Those were the plans.

TIM

All right. (Pause.) What?

JEAN

Tim, you're not a woman.

TIM

I'm very sympathetic, though.

JEAN

What have your plans for this?

TIM

I suppose you remember as well as I do.

JEAN

Let me hear you say it the way you did then.

TIM

I need my feet up on a table and a beer in my hand.

JEAN

Go ahead, Tim.

TIM

The plans were just what the doll. It is works however. It is doesn't, so what. (Pause.) Those were the plans.

TIM

Wouldn't you say Blog was?

JEAN

Sort of. But he doesn't exactly have a fiery orator's zeal.

TIM

Should we stump the country and make whistle-stop speeches? Why our way of life is good for you?

JEAN

You had that zeal once.

TIM

Well, to an extent.

JEAN

And what was goint to happen?

TIM

You want me to make it sound silly? I can.

JEAN

Just tell it the way you did.

TIM

All right. We were gradually going to add friends to the group.

CRUD- 17

TIM

Wouldn't you say Blog was?

JEAN

Sort of. But he doesn't exactly have a fiery orator's zeal.

TIM

Should we stump the country and make whistle-stop speeches? Why our way of life is good for you?

JEAN

You had that zeal once.

TIM

Well, to an extent.

JEAN

And what was going to happen?

TIM

You want me to make it sound silly? I can.

JEAN

Just tell it the way you did.

TIM

All right. We were gradually going to add friends to the group.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

Then when one apartment got too crowded-- whoosh! Mitosis! Another apartment somewhere else.

JEAN

Go on.

TIM

Then I suppose we would get pretty serious. When we were sure we had something that would last. Children.

JEAN

That's it, Tim.

TIM

Oh.

JEAN

Do we have something that will last?

TIM

I can't tell. Can you?

JEAN

You can tell. I don't. I moved in with you six months ago.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

Then when one apartment got too crowded-- whoosh! Natosha! Another apartment somewhere else.

JEAN

Do on.

TIM

Then I suppose we would get pretty serious. When we were sure we had something that would last. Children.

JEAN

That's it, Tim.

TIM

Oh.

JEAN

Do we have something that will last?

TIM

I can't tell. Can you?

JEAN

You can tell. I can't. I moved in with you six months ago.

TIM

A baby is pretty big for his size.

JEAN

We lost two members of the group next week.

TIM

Donna is just visiting her parents.

JEAN

That's not what she told me.

TIM

She's left?

JEAN

Yes. She didn't want me to tell anyone till she was due back.

TIM

Afraid it might bfeak up the party?

(JEAN nods.)

What about Pete?

JEAN

Donna told him, too.

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TIM

A baby is pretty big for his size.

JEAN

We lost two members of the group next week.

TIM

Donna is just visiting her parents.

JEAN

That's not what she told me.

TIM

She's left?

JEAN

Yes. She didn't want me to tell anyone till she was due back.

TIM

Afraid it might break up the party?

(JEAN nods.)

What about Pete?

JEAN

Donna

Sam told him, too.

TIM

And so he's leaving?

JEAN

That's right.

TIM

I guess Donna was the only one he really cared about, after all.

JEAN

Yes, Tim.

TIM

I really hadn't realized.

JEAN

So this is it. And I want a baby.

TIM

And. You want a baby.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

That's a hell of a chance to take.

TIM

And so he's leaving?

JEAN

That's right.

TIM

I guess Donna was the only one he really cared about, after all.

JEAN

Yes, Tim.

TIM

I really hadn't realized.

JEAN

So this is it. And I want a baby.

TIM

And. You want a baby.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

That's a hell of a chance to take.

JEAN

It might stop the drift.

TIM

It might not.

JEAN

It might not.

TIM

You'd have an illegitimate child? Even if there were no more group?

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

The original idea is wonderful. Think of a child growing up with three mommies and daddies. One <u>special</u> mommy, but always a lot of people. A great big mound of people. All of us.

JEAN

Except the mound is shrinking.

TIM

And suppose there was nobody left but you and a small child?

JEAN

I'd take the chance.

JEAN

I'd take the chance.

TIM

And suppose there was nobody left but you and a small child?

JEAN

Except the sound is shrinking.

TIM

The original idea is wonderful. Think of a child growing up with three mommies and daddies. One special mommy, but always a lot of people. A great big mound of people. All of us.

JEAN

Yes.

TIM

You'd have an illegitimate child? Even if there were no more groups?

JEAN

It might not.

TIM

It might stop the drift.

TIM

Not with my kid.

JEAN

I would think you'd have less to lose.

TIM

A child of mine? Without me? Hell no.

JEAN

I see.

TIM

I'm sorry.

JEAN

So am I.

TIM

Jean, even if it is going to bust-- let's fight it? All right? It's been six months out of our lives and it's been good. Let's make a go of this damned thing!

JEAN

All right.

TIM

Really, Jean? Promise me.

TIM

Not with my kid.

JEAN

I would think you'd have less to lose.

TIM

A child of mine? Without me? Hell no.

JEAN

I see.

TIM

I'm sorry.

JEAN

So am I.

TIM

Damn, even if it is going to bust-- let's fight it? All right?
It's been six months out of our lives and it's been good. Let's
make a go of this damned thing!

JEAN

All right.

TIM

Really, Jean? Promise me.

JEAN

I promise.

XXX

(Singing in kitchen: "Viva la quincebrigada..."etc.)

TIM

I do too. Dammit, they've opened another jug of chianti.

JEAN (looks at clock)

I'm late!

TIM

Goodbye. (Kisses her. She leaves.)
Hey, you madmen! It's almost nine o'clock!

(They stop singing. Voices for a moment.)

WINNIE (offstage)

So what? Nobody has to do anything! (Singing again.)

(WINNIE comes in.)

WINNIE

Tim, are you alone? Come play the guitar for us.

TIM

All right. (Hesitates.) Winnie, are you satisfied with all this?

JEAN

I promise.

SAM

(singing to kitchen: "Viva la quinembriga..." etc.)

TIM

I do too. Damnit, they've opened another jug of champ!.

JEAN (looks at clock)

I'm late!

TIM

Goodbye. (Kisses her. She leaves.)

Hey, you madmen! It's almost nine o'clock!

(They stop singing. Voices for a moment.)

WINNIE (offstage)

So what? Nobody has to do anything! (Singing again.)

(WINNIE comes in.)

WINNIE

Tim, are you alone? Come play the guitar for us.

TIM

All right. (Hesitates.) Winnie, are you satisfied with all this?

WINNIE

Is anybody ever really satisfied?

TIM

Give me an answer.

WINNIE

I guess you're not.

TIM

I'm not sure. It's a lot nicer than other parts of my life I could mention.

WINNIE

What is it you like? The harem?

TIM

I hope you didn't mean that.

WINNIE

In a way I did. In a way not.

(Pause.)

TIM

So, Winnie.

WINNIE

So, indeed. Do you know why I came here?

MENNIE

Is anybody ever really satisfied?

TIM

Give me an answer.

MINNIE

I guess you're not.

TIM

I'm not sure. It's a lot nicer than other parts of my life I could mention.

MINNIE

What is it you like? The bacon?

TIM

I hope you didn't mean that.

MINNIE

In a way I did. In a way not.
(Pause.)

TIM

So, Minnie.

MINNIE

So, indeed. Do you know why I came here?

TIM

Came here?

WINNIE

In the beginning.

TIM

In September, when we all got the apartment?

WINNIE

Mmmm. Why did I?

TIM

Summer madness. No. I don't know.

WINNIE

Think about it.

TIM

The ideology overwhelmed you.

WINNIE

Not quite.

TIM

My rhetoric did.

TIM

Came here?

WINNIE

Ian the beginning.

TIM

In September, when we all got the apartment?

WINNIE

Mmmm. Why did I?

TIM

Summer madness. No. I don't know.

WINNIE

Think about it.

TIM

The ideology overwhelmed you.

WINNIE

Not quite.

TIM

My rhetoric did.

WINNIE

Close.

TIM

I'm not rightly sure.

TIM

Ah.

WINNIE

You're sorry?

WINNIE

Yeah.

TIM

Yes.

TIM

You were in love with me.

WINNIE

Orgy. Forget it.

WINNIE

I am in love with you.

TIM

I will.

TIM

Yeah. Great.

WINNIE

What do you care about?

WINNIE

You sound overjoyed.

TIM

All of us.

TIM

Sorry.

WINNIE

You may not have much time. (TIM nods. Pause.)

WINNIE

So what do I say now?

TIM

It would be silly to say I like you.

WINNIE

Grace.

TIM

Ah.

WINNIE

Yeah.

TIM

You were in love with me.

WINNIE

I am in love with you.

TIM

Yeah. Great.

WINNIE

You sound overjoyed.

TIM

Sorry.

WINNIE

So what do I say now?

TIM

I'm not rightly sure.

WINNIE

You're sorry?

TIM

Yes.

WINNIE

Okay. Forget it.

TIM

I will.

WINNIE

What do you care about?

TIM

All of us.

WINNIE

You may not have much time. (TIM nods. Pause.)

TIM

It would be silly to say I like you.

TIM

I'm not rightly sure.

MINNIE

You're sorry?

TIM

Yes.

MINNIE

Okay. Forget it.

TIM

I will.

MINNIE

What do you care about?

TIM

All of us.

MINNIE

You may not have much time. (TIM nods. Pause.)

TIM

It would be silly to say I like you.

WINNIE

Absurd. I'd kick you in the groin.

TIM

Leave it unsaid. (Sneakily he kisses her.)

(JOE enters.)

JOE

If only the day could end with breakfast.

TIM

Did you put away the chianti?

JOE (hiccups)

It's on the table.

TIM

I'll have to hide it. We can't just leave it around. (LEAVES)

(TIM leaves. JOE kisses WINNIE.)

JOE

Thank you for last night.

WINNIE

It was a pleasure.

WINNIE

Absurd. I'd kick you in the groin.

TIM

Leave it unsaid. (Sneakily he kisses her.)

(JOE enters.)

JOE

If only the day could end with breakfast.

TIM

Did you put away the chianti?

JOE (hiccups)

It's on the table.

TIM

I'll have to hide it. We can't just leave it around. (LEAVES)

(TIM leaves. JOE kisses WINNIE.)

JOE

Thank you for last night.

WINNIE

It was a pleasure.

BLOG (who has entered)

The snow is still falling.

(JOE breaks the kiss to glare at him.)

Well, all right.

JOE

If you leave we will welcome you retroactively.

BLOG (getting books.)

I will study.

TIM (offstage)

Who washed the dishes?

(He enters.)

I said, who washed the dishes?

BLOG

We used no dishes.

TIM

Oh, that's right.

BLOG

We used bread.

JOE

We also used the table top.

BLOG (who has entered)

The snow is still falling.

(JOE breaks the kiss to glare at him.)

Well, all right.

JOE

If you leave we will welcome you returnedtively.

BLOG (getting books.)

I will study.

TIM (offstage)

Who washed the dishes?

(He enters.)

M

I said, who washed the dishes?

BLOG

We used no dishes.

TIM

Oh, that's right.

BLOG

We used bread.

JOE

We also used the table top.

TIM

My father is visiting today. I'd rather you wouldn't neck.

JOE

We weren't intending to neck.

WINNIE

I'll go do some shopping. What do we need?

TIM

We need potatoes.

JOE

Get some pigs' ears. They're always good.

TIM

Especially when company drops around.

BLOG

Get vegetables in general.

TIM

Also spices.

WINNIE

I'll handle it myself. Can I borrow your galoshes, Tim? (Exits.)

TIM

My father is visiting today. I'd rather you wouldn't mock.

JOE

We weren't intending to mock.

MINNIE

I'll go do some shopping. What do we need?

TIM

We need potatoes.

JOE

Get some pigs' ears. They're always good.

TIM

Especially when company drops around.

BLOS

Get vegetables in general.

TIM

Also spices.

MINNIE

I'll handle it myself. Can I borrow your glasses, Tim? (Exits.)

TIM

Sure.

BLOG

I will study. (Starts to go.)

JOE

I will help you study, Blog.

BLOG

I need no help.

JOE

We can argue politics, then.

BLOG

I need no politics.

JOE

What do you need?

BLOG (exultantly)

Ahhh!

JOE

Well, you won't need any help for <u>that</u>.

Well, you won't need any help for <u>that</u>.

JOE

Ahhh!

BLOG (exultantly)

What do you need?

JOE

I need no politics.

BLOG -- NEW

We can argue politics, then.

JOE

I need no help.

BLOG

I will help you study, Blog.

JOE

I will study. (Starts to go.)

BLOG

Sure.

TIM

TIM

Why do you always have to study in the bathroom?

BLOG

It's too noisy in here.

JOE

Well, if you're going to be there all day, can I take a shower first?

BLOG (resentfully)

Sssssss.

JOE (loftily)

Thank you. (He starts to leave.)
If there are any phone calls, tell them I am in Geneva, Switzerland.
(He leaves. From then on, sounds of shower and obnoxious singing. TIM lights a cigarette.)

TIM

Blog?

BLOG

Ho-ho-ho. I am reading Margaret Mead. Ahhh!

TIM

It's snowing out.

TIM

Why do you always have to study in the bathroom?

BLOG

It's too noisy in here.

JOE

Well, if you're going to be there all weekend day, can I take a shower first?

BLOG (resentfully)

Beaver.

JOE (loftily)

Thank you. (He starts to leave.)

If there are any phone calls, tell them I am in Geneva, Switzerland.

(He leaves. From then on, sounds of [illegible] shower and obscenities singing.) TIM lights a cigarette.)

TIM

[illegible] Blog!

BLOG

No-no-no. I am reading Learned Head. Ahhh!

TIM

[illegible] It's snowing out.

BLOG

I saw! I saw!

TIM

But the group is dead.

TIM

Have we failed, Blog?

BLOG

Well, the movement is not sweeping the world. So what?

BLOG

Failubem is frustration with a lot of emotion.

TIM

So.

BLOG

Failure is something you bring into existence by talking about it.

TIM

Have we failed, Blog?

BLOG

Most of us need more than we're giving each other.

BLOG

I don't know. (Pause.)

Possibly. (Pause.)

Probably.

TIM

I knew it would be true if you said it.

BLOG

But so what? It's worked. Some, anyhow.

BLOG

I saw! I saw!

TIM

Have we failed, Blog?

BLOG

Failure is frustration with a lot of emotion.

TIM

So.

BLOG

Failure is something you bring into existence by talking about it.

TIM

Have we failed, Blog?

BLOG

I don't know. (Pause.)

Possibly. (Pause.)

Probably.

TIM

I know it would be true if you said it.

BLOG

But so what? It's worked. Gone, anyhow.

TIM

But the group is dead.

BLOG

Well, the movement is not sweeping the world. So what?

TIM

Why?

BLOG

Why which?

TIM

Why didn't it work for us?

BLOG

Most of us need more than we're giving each other.

TIM

Is anyone leaving?

BLOG

I don't know. Could be.

TIM

Who?

TIM

But the group is dead.

BLOG

Well, the movement is not sweeping the world. So what?

TIM

Why?

BLOG

Why what?

TIM

Why didn't it work for us?

BLOG

Most of us need more than we're giving each other.

BLOG

Is anyone leaving?

TIM

I don't know. Could be.

BLOG

Who?

TIM

Anybody. Maybe me.

BLOG

Do not go! For heaven's sakes.

TIM

Maybe I won't.

BLOG

We need you.

TIM

We need everybody. We need each other.

BLOG

We do. Tim?

TIM

Unh.

BLOG

I love.

TIM

Actually?

TIM

Actually?

BLOG

I love.

TIM

Um.

BLOG

We go. Tim?

TIM

We need everybody. We need each other.

BLOG

We need you.

TIM

Maybe I won't.

BLOG

Do not go! For heaven's sakes.

TIM

Anybody. Maybe me.

BLOG

Yes!

TIM

Winnie?

BLOG

Winnie!

TIM

Zorch. Jolly-ho.

BLOG

It <u>is</u> zorch!

TIM

So. So.

BLOG

Maybe it's wonderful. I'm not sure.

TIM

It is wonderful. Ho, Blog.

BLOG

Ah?

BECO

Yes!

TIM

Wimple?

BECO

Wimple!

TIM

Zorch. Jolly-ho.

BECO

It is zorch!

TIM

So. So.

BECO

Maybe it's wonderful. I'm not sure.

TIM

It is wonderful. Ho, Bloc.

BECO

Ah?

TIM

I am leaving.

BLOG

You must not!

TIM

I better. I heard about a job on a freighter. I want to write this novel now, or I never may.

BLOG

Please, Tim. You and Winnie?

TIM

Not slightly.

BLOG

Stay! You are necessary.

TIM

They shot Lincoln. They crucified Christ. The world got along.

BLOG

At least think a while.

TIM

I will.

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TIM

I am leaving.

BLOG

You must not!

TIM

I better. I heard about a job on a freighter. I want to write this novel now, or I never may.

BLOG

Please, Tim. You and Wimsley?

TIM

Not slightly.

BLOG

Stay! You are necessary.

TIM

They shot Lincoln. They crucified Christ. The world got along.

BLOG

At least think a while.

TIM

I will.

BLOG

Tim, do you think she'll have me?

TIM

Hasn't she had you already?

BLOG

I mean otherwise. (JOE stops singing, turns off shower.)

TIM

Would you marry her?

BLOG

Perhaps.

TIM

Wonderful.

BLOG

Give me the odds.

TIM

That she'll take you? Excellent.

BLOG

Oh, god. Ho-ho-ho!

BLOG

Tim,do you think she'll have me?

TIM

Hasn't she had you already?

BLOG

I mean otherwise. (JOE steps singing, turns on shower.)

TIM

Would you marry her?

BLOG

Perhaps.

TIM

Wonderful.

BLOG

Give me the odds.

TIM

That she'll take you? Excellent.

BLOG

Oh, God. No-no-no!

TIM

Go study, Blog.

BLOG

Please don't leave us.

TIM

We'll see. Go study.

BLOG (offstage)

Are you through?

JOE (offstage)

Quite soon. Come on in and study. Don't mind me.

(JEAN enters.)

TIM

Welcome, stranger. Why aren't you at the office?

JEAN

I didn't like the snow. I think I'll be sick today. The boss has it coming.

BLOG (offstage)

Tim!

TIM

What?

BLOG

Cockroaches!

TIM

Go study, Blog.

BLOG

Please don't leave us.

TIM

We'll see. Go study.

BLOG (offstage)

Are you through?

JOE (offstage)

Quite soon. Come on in make study. Don't mind me.

(JEAN enters.)

TIM

Welcome, stranger. Why aren't you at the office?

JEAN

I didn't like the snow. I think I'll be sick today. The bone has it coming.

BLOG (offstage)

Tim!

TIM

What?

BLOG

Cockroaches!

TIM

Again?

(He runs off to kitchen. JOE comes in, tousled from shower.)

JOE

There are millions of them. Horrible. Jean, my god.

TIM (at a run recrossing/with spray gun)

Coming!

JOE

I shall ask no questions. Your very presence is enough.

(JEAN sits on a mattress and takes her shoes off.)

JEAN (disgustedly)

Blewueuch.

JOE (plonkingly)

My gracious, Jean. How good it is to see you again!

JEAN

Joe.

JOE

Jean!

JEAN

We don't see you often enough.

JOE

Easy come, easy go.

JEAN

Sincerity is usually misplaced these days. But I like you an awful lot. We all do.

JOE

How charming of you it is to say that.

TIM

Again?

(He runs off to kitchen. JOE comes in, tousled from shower.)

JOE

There are millions of them. Horrible. Jean, my god.

TIM (~~with~~ recrossing at a run with spray gun)

Coming!

JOE

I shall ask no questions. Your very presence is enough.

(JEAN sits on a mattress and takes her shoes off.)

JEAN (disgustedly)

Blewueuch.

JOE (plonkingly)

My gracious, Jean. How good it is to see you again!

JEAN

Joe.

JOE

Jean!

JEAN

We don't see you often enough.

JOE

Easy come, easy go.

JEAN

Sincerity is usually misplaced these days. But I like you an awful lot. We all do.

JOE

How charming of you it is to say that.

JEAN

Really, Joe, I mean it.

JOE

Obviously.

JEAN

Do you like being hard to talk to?

JOE

It's a matter of caution. People are less entangling.

JEAN

Are you afraid of being entangled?

JOE

Yes. Are you thinking of an entanglement?

JEAN

Seriously.

JOE

Well, go ahead. Proposition me.

JEAN

I feel like getting away from here for a while.

JOE

Not by yourself, I presume.

JEAN

Would you like to go with me?

JOE

Where?

JEAN

My parents have a cabin in the Smokies.

JOE

Sounds delightful.

JEAN

Really. Joe. I mean it.

JOE

Obviously.

JEAN

Do you like being bored to talk to?

JOE

It's a matter of caution. People are less entangling.

JEAN

Are you afraid of being entangled?

JOE

Yes. Are you thinking of an entanglement?

JEAN

Seriously.

JOE

Well, go ahead. Proposition me.

JEAN

I feel like getting away from here for a while.

JOE

Not by yourself, I presume.

JEAN

Would you like to go with me?

JOE

Where?

JEAN

My parents have a cabin in the Sierras.

JOE

Sounds delightful.

JEAN

Would you go there with me for a couple of weeks?

JOE

No.

JEAN

Why not? I would have thought it a wonderful offer. Or is that conceit?

JOE

I don't want to tie myself down.

JEAN

Two weeks is a hangman's knot?

JOE

It might be.

JEAN

You're right, you know.

JOE

Yes.

JEAN

Okay.

TIM (entering with BLOG)

Lord, the smell.

JOE

Just open the windows.

TIM

There aren't enough windows.

JOE

Hop to it, Blog. Turn on the fan and no more gases.

Sasse. [redacted]

JEAN

Would you go there with me for a couple of weeks?

JOE

No.

JEAN

Why not? I would have thought it a wonderful offer. Or is that conceit?

JOE

I don't want to tie myself down.

JEAN

Two weeks is a honeymoon's end?

JOE

It might be.

JEAN

You're right. You know.

JOE

Yes.

JEAN

Okay.

TIM (entering with BLOCK)

Lord. The smell.

JOE

Just open the windows.

TIM

There aren't enough windows.

JOE

Help to it, Block. Turn on the fan and no more grease.

BLOG

Ssssss. (He goes back into bathroom with JOE.)

JEAN

I think I will go to the office after all.

TIM

Suit yourself.

JEAN (offstage)

Oh, excuse me!

HAL (offstage)

Does Tim Shearing live here?

TIM

This is it! (Rushes to greet Hal.)

It's been a long time. Why, you don't look like my father.

HAL

How are you, Tim?

TIM

Are you sure you can't stay for lunch or anything?

HAL

I told you. The boat sails at noon, and my plane from Denver was late. I'm sorry.

TIM

That's all right. This is it. Home.

HAL

Mattresses.

TIM

Mattresses are wonderful. Comfortable, space-saving, cheap, sociable. (Rolls back his mattress.) I keep papers and manuscripts under here. I've started a novel.

BLOCK

Susan. (He goes back into bedroom with JOE.)

JEAN

I think I will go to the office after all.

TIM

Quit yourself.

JEAN (offstage)

Oh, excuse me!

HAL (offstage)

Does Tim Sheering live here?

TIM

This is it! (Hanson to Great Hal.)

It's been a long time. Why, you don't look like my father.

HAL

How are you, Tim?

TIM

Are you sure you can't stay for lunch or anything?

HAL

I told you. The boat sails at noon, and my plane from Denver was late. I'm sorry.

TIM

That's all right. This is it. Home.

HAL

Mattresses.

TIM

Mattresses are wonderful. Comfortable, space-saving, cheap, sociable. (Rolls back his mattress.) I keep papers and manuscripts under here. I've started a novel.

HAL

I'd like to read it.

TIM

Sure. I remember your novel. Very nice. I read it again last year.

HAL

You were a kid when I wrote it.

TIM

Well, I suppose I still am, more or less.

HAL

What did you get out of college, Tim?

TIM

Things.

HAL

Like?

TIM

I learned about the government of Yugoslavia, about the behavior of rats, and some nifty esoterica about square roots.

HAL

Anything else?

TIM

Intangibles.

HAL (entering)

How grand it all sounds.

TIM

I found out about boot-licking professors, and how to ask a girl to spend the weekend with you in Philadelphia.

HAL

I'd like to read it

TIM

Sure. I remember your novel. Very nice. I read it again last year.

HAL

You were a kid when I wrote it.

TIM

Well, I suppose I still am, more or less.

HAL

What did you get out of college, Tim?

TIM

Things.

HAL

Like?

TIM

I learned about the governments of Yugoslavia, about the behavior of rats, and some nifty assertions about square roots.

HAL

Anything else?

TIM

Indescribles.

HAL

How grand it all sounds.

TIM

I found out about boot-licking professors, and how to ask a girl to spend the weekend with you in Philadelphia.

(Pause.)

HAL

How many people live here?

TIM

It varies. Seven or eight.

HAL

Mixed?

TIM

Very.

HAL

I suppose that makes it bizarre enough for your tastes.

TIM

I know you disapprove of me in general, Hal. And if I told you all I believe in you'd probably find it pretty silly. And I'd be sorry.

HAL

Why can't you call me Father?

TIM

I don't know. I'd rather not, after calling you Hal all this time.

(Pause.)

HAL

It's not disapproval, Tim.

JOE (entering)

Tazh?

TIM

Oh, Hal, I want you to meet Zoltan. He's from Paraplegia. I'm afraid he doesn't know any English.

(Pause.)

HAL

How many people live here?

TIM

It varies. Seven or eight.

HAL

Mixed?

TIM

Very.

HAL

I suppose that makes it bizarre enough for your tastes.

TIM

I know you disapprove of me in General, Hal. And if I told you all I believe in you'd probably find it pretty silly. And I'd be sorry.

HAL

Why can't you call me Father?

TIM

I don't know. I'd rather not, after calling you Hal all this time.

(Pause.)

HAL

It's not disapproval, Tim.

JOE (entering)

Tasty?

TIM

Oh, Hal, I want you to meet Zoltan. He's from Paraplegia. I'm afraid he doesn't know any English.

JOE

Hev yu got a ceegaret?

TIM

That's all the English he knows. Luckily, my Russian helps me in talking to him.

HAL

Your Russian?

TIM

I had a Russian roommate. Anyway, he was kind of a Slav. I picked up quite a bit of language from him. Here, let me introduce you. (to JOE.) Tovarishch. Kraganovich. Pa-pa.

JOE (delightedly)

Mmm!

TIM

I told him you were in advertising.

HAL

That got him enthusiastic?

TIM

Anything does. Gunobozhel! Smogelinsk, Rimsky-Korsakov.

JOE

Tazh.

TIM

Kazh?

JOE

Tazh.

TIM

Hah!

JOE

Hev yu got a ceegaret?

TIM

That's all the English he knows. Luckily, my Russian helps me in talking to him.

HAL

Your Russian?

TIM

I had a Russian roommate. Anyway, he was kind of a Slav. I picked up quite a bit of language from him. Here, let me introduce you. (to JOE.) Tovarishch. Kraganovich. Pa-pa.

JOE (delightedly)

Mmm!

TIM

I told him you were in advertising.

HAL

That got him enthusiastic?

TIM

Anything does. Gunobozhel! Smogelinsk, Rimsky-Korsakov.

JOE

Tazh.

TIM

Kazh?

JOE

Tazh.

TIM

Hah!

JOE

Schelominu. (Sings.) Mit aysko, Merondor, Mit aysko— (Speaks.)

Pozhalisto. Novaya Zemlya.

TIM

He welcomes you and says he admires advertising men. He also wants a drink. You?

HAL

At this hour?

TIM

You're leaving for Europe. Anyway, I didn't know you were partidular.

HAL

What is there?

TIM

No choise at all. I'll bring it. (Exits. HAL looks at JOE. JOE smiles enormously.

HAL

Where are you from?

JOE (gesturing helplessly)

Mnyastroinik. Marrakesh.

HAL

I said, where are you from?

JOE

Port Washington.

HAL

What do you do?

JOE

I am in the ranks of the unemployed.

JOE

Schelominu. (Sings.) Mit ayeko, Nerondor, Mit ayeko-- (Speaks.)

Pozhalisto. Novaya Zemlya.

TIM

He welcomes you and says he admires advertising men. He also wants a drink. You?

HAL

At this hour?

TIM

You're leaving for Europe. Anyway, I didn't know you were particular.

HAL

What is there?

TIM

No choice at all. I'll bring it. (Exits. HAL looks at JOE. JOE smiles enormously.

HAL

Where are you from?

JOE (gesturing helplessly)

Mnyastroinik. Marrakesh.

HAL

I said, where are you from?

JOE

Port Washington.

HAL

What do you do?

JOE

I am in the ranks of the unemployed.

HAL

How elegant.

JOE

I try to live with beauty and grace.

HAL (unpleasantly.)

Good for you.

JOE

Well, lots of people have been out of work.

HAL

But with scarcely such pomp. You sound as though it's your life's calling.

JOE

With luck-- who knows?

HAL

I see. Have you thought up anyx ways of killing time?

JOE (defensively)

There are many. Wine, women and dance. All fun.

HAL

What endless delight you have in store!

JOE

I have friends who support me. Also, I blackmail my parents for a little something now and then.

HAL

How idyllic!

TIM (returning with glasses.)

Wine.

HAL

Well, go ahead, Zoltan. Give us a song to go with it.

TIM

He doesn't understand.

HAL

Perhaps he does.

JOE (annoyed)

Yes, I understand.

TIM

Zoltan! My god, you speak English!

JOE

Cut it out, Tim.

TIM

Oh, all right.

HAL

Zoltan and I were having quite an interesting talk.

TIM

His name is Joe.

HAL

Much better. This lad surprises me. It's a long time since I talked to anyone with so much ambition to do nothing. How long has he been in your little coterie?

JOE

Strictly speaking, I'm not in <u>it</u>.

HAL

Perhaps you're above it?

JOE

More like around it.

TIM

Among it.

TIM

He doesn't understand.

HAL

Perhaps he does.

JOE (annoyed)

Yes, I understand.

TIM

Zoltan! My God, you speak English!

JOE

Cut it out, Tim.

TIM

Oh, all right.

HAL

Zoltan and I were having quite an interesting talk.

TIM

His name is Joe.

HAL

Much better. This has surprises me. It's a long time since I talked to anyone with so much ambition to do nothing. How long has he been in your little coterie?

JOE

Strictly speaking, I'm not in it.

HAL

Perhaps you're above it!

JOE

More like around it.

TIM

Among it.

JOE

A guest. Sometimes.

HAL

Is that part of your system?

JOE (tired of this)

My design for living is my own.

HAL (even less pleasantly)

Admirable!

TIM

Here, now!

JOE

Look, Tim, I really have to go. Thank everyone for everything. Thank everybody for everything. Especially Winnie!

TIM

Like her?

JOE

Fine girl.

TIM

But you won't join?

JOE

We'll see. Nice to have met you.

HAL

A delight.

JOE

See you.

TIM

Later?

HAL

JOE

A guest. Sometimes.

HAL

Is that part of your system?

JOE (tired of this)

My design for living is my own.

HAL (even less pleasantly)

Admirable!

TIM

Here, now!

JOE

Look, Tim, I really have to go. Thank everyone for everything.
Thank everybody for everything. Especially Mumsie!

TIM

Like her!

JOE

Fine girl.

TIM

But you [redacted] won't join?

JOE

We'll see. Nice to have met you.

HAL

A delight.

JOE

See you.

TIM

Later!

JAX

JOE

Couple days. So long. (Goes.)

HAL

Say-- is he a good friend of yours?

TIM

Quite good. Very good.

HAL

As long as you want me to disapprove of something, let me disapprove of him.

TIM

That's a mistake.

HAL

You'd have to prove it to me.

TIM

Is it necessary?

HAL

Arrogant, uncaring, obnoxious--

TIM

Forget it. He's a friend. Period.

HAL

All right. Let me pick on you for something else. (hesitates.) How many girls are you living with?

TIM

What do you mean by living?

HAL

I'd call it living.

TIM

Well, three then.

TIM

Couple days. So long. (Goes.)

HAL

Say-- is he a good friend of yours?

TIM

Quite good. Very good.

HAL

As long as you want me to disapprove of something, let me disapprove of him.

TIM

That's a mistake.

HAL

You'd have to prove it to me.

TIM

Is it necessary?

HAL

Arrogant, unsaving, obnoxious--

TIM

Forget it. He's a friend. Period.

HAL

All right. Let me pick on you for something else. (hesitates.) How many girls are you living with?

TIM

What do you mean by living?

HAL

I'd call it living.

TIM

Well, three then.

HAL

Do you love any of them?

TIM

To an extent. All of them.

HAL

Sounds like Utopia.

TIM

It's not. But it has its points. Since when are you the moralist?

HAL

Thanks. I'll get to that. Now, how long has this little colony existed?

TIM

Since August. Five months.

HAL

And how long has this little colony existed?

TIM

Since last August. Five months.

HAL

And how long do you think it can last?
(Pause.)

TIM

Maybe another week!

HAL

Has it given way?

TIM

It's creaking.

HAL

Do you love any of them?

TIM

To an extent. All of them.

HAL

Sounds like Utopia.

TIM

It's not. But it has its points. Since when are you the moralist?

HAL

Thanks. I'll get to that. Now, how long has this little colony existed?

TIM

Since August. Five months.

HAL

And how long has this little colony existed?

TIM

Since last August. Five months.

HAL

And how long do you think it can last?

(Pause.)

TIM

Maybe another week!

HAL

Has it given way?

TIM

It's creaking.

HAL

Well, that will spoil my chance to say I told you sp. (Pause.) It's too bad. Did you really care?

TIM

Yes.

HAL

Why, exactly? Besides, of course, your love for the unusual and grotesque.

TIM

Man Against Nature. Us against those striggleheads next door.

HAL (musingly)

It was a nice idea.

TIM (shrugs)

So.

HAL

What now?

TIM

We scatter.

HAL

I guess. But now the cause of the morality. Any chance you might marry one of the girls?

TIM

I don't know. I'd kind of like to. I'd rather not.

HAL

Reason?

TIM

I'd be afraid. Children I could cope with. I'd like children. A wife is scary. You have to be so sure it will be right.

HAL

Well, that will spoil my chance to say I told you so. (Pause.) It's too bad. Did you really care?

TIM

Yes.

HAL

Why, exactly? Besides, of course, your love for the unusual and grotesque.

TIM

Man Against Nature. Us against those afterglobeads next door.

HAL (musingly)

It was a nice idea.

TIM (slurps)

So.

HAL

What now?

TIM

We scatter.

HAL

I guess. But now the cause of the mortality. Any chance you might marry one of the girls?

TIM

I don't know. I'd kind of like to. I'd rather not.

HAL

Reason?

TIM

I'd be afraid. Children I could cope with. I'd like children. A wife is scary. You have to be so sure it will be right.

HAL

I was married at your age.

TIM

I know. That's part of it. I wouldn't want to pay the alimony. Or, in all due respect, twenty years of support for a dependent.

HAL

Any danger of that? Next week, I mean.

TIM

No. (Fingers the head JEAN has been modelling. HAL comes over and takes TIM's shoulder.)

HAL

I guess you knew my objections beforehand. It's all over now, Tim. The twenty years of support.

TIM (restrained emotions, etc.)

It must be a disappointment to see me living here. Macabre enough and all that.

HAL

Not particularly. I suppose I do trust you.

TIM

That makes me feel good. That makes me feel very good. (Pause.) I wouldn't really have expected to feel this good from seeing you.

HAL

Well.

TIM

Really, Hal, I do lOve you. We haven't been like most fathers and sons, but I think it's there between us.

HAL

I guess it is. (Pats his son on the back.) Well, I guess I have

HAL

I was married at your age.

TIM

I know. That's part of it. I wouldn't want to pay the alimony.
Or, in all due respect, twenty years of support for a dependent.

HAL

Any danger of that? Next week, I mean.

TIM

No. (Figures the head TEAM has been modelling. HAL comes over
and takes TIM's shoulder.)

HAL

I guess you knew my objections beforehand. It's all over now, Tim.
The twenty years of support.

TIM (restrained emotions, etc.)

It must be a disappointment to see me living here. Measure enough
and all that.

HAL

Not particularly. I suppose I do trust you.

TIM

That makes me feel good. That makes me feel very good. (Pause.)
I wouldn't really have expected to feel this good from seeing you.

HAL

Well.

TIM

Really, Hal, I do love you. We haven't been like most fathers and
sons, but I think it's there between us.

HAL

I guess it is. (Puts his arm on the back.) Well, I guess I have

to be going. (Then looks at his watch.)

TIM

If you stayed a couple of minutes longer some of the family might be back.

HAL

I better not wait. I probably wouldn't understand them either. (Holds his son's arm.) I'll write you a letter.

TIM

I promise to write you too.

HAL (grimacing at his glass of wine)

I'll send you a battle of Scotch.

TIM

Thanks. I'll write you and say, "Dear Father..."

HAL

Goodbye, boy.

TIM

So long, Hal. (HAL goes.)

TIM

Blog?

BLOG (offstage)

I am studying!

TIM

Come out and social_ize.

BLOG

I am studying in the bathtub!

TIM

Come out anyway. (He looks at his glass.)

BLOG (entering)

Enh?

to be going. (Then looks at his watch.)

TIM

If you stayed a couple of minutes longer some of the family might be back.

HAL

I better not wait. I probably wouldn't understand them either.

(Holds his son's arm.) I'll write you a letter.

TIM

I promise to write you too.

HAL (grimacing at the glass of wine)

I'll send you a bottle of Scotch.

TIM

Thanks. I'll write you and say, "Dear Father..."

HAL

Goodbye, boy.

TIM

So long, Hal. (HAL goes.)

TIM

Bing!

DOG (offstage)

I am studying!

TIM

Come out and social_ize.

DOG

I am studying in the bathtub!

TIM

Come out anyway. (He looks at his glass.)

DOG (entering)

Hm?

TIM

You and Winnie.

BLOG

Why not?

TIM

Of course! She's wonderful.

BLOG

She is wonderful.

TIM

I guess.

BLOG

Something?

TIM (packing a small bag)

I'm going on a trip.

BLOG

Anyplace?

TIM

Anyplace.

BLOG

Watch the sunsets. But not alone.

TIM

Certainly not alone.

BLOG

What shall I tell the others?

TIM

At your discretion.

BLOG

I am discreet.

TIM

You and Minnie.

BLOG

Why not?

TIM

Of course! She's wonderful.

BLOG

She is wonderful.

TIM

I guess.

BLOG

Something?

TIM (packing a small bag)

I'm going on a trip.

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Anyplace?

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Anyplace.

BLOG

Watch the sunsets. But not alone.

TIM

Certainly not alone.

BLOG

What shall I tell the others?

TIM

At your discretion.

BLOG

I am discreet.

TIM

Give 'em hell. I think I'll take a shower first.

BLOG

Watch out for the cockroaches. The shower is mobilizing them today.

TIM

I'll mobilize back. [illegible]

[illegible]

(TIM goes into bathroom. BLOG takes a sheet of paper from a desk-bookshelf and carefully folds it into a paper airplane. He puts it into the travelling bag that TIM has packed. He pats the bag. WINNIE enters, with groceries, stamps her feet to get the snow off.)

BLOG

You have brought <u>things</u>!

WINNIE

It's snowing out.

BLOG

I saw! I saw!

WINNIE

It's beautiful, too.

BLOG

I have stopped studying. No more today.

WINNIE

What's the bag for?

BLOG

A transition. Let us do something.

WINNIE

I should study. I have a class at three.

TIM

Give 'em hell. I think I'll take a shower first.

BLOG

Watch out for the cockroaches. The shower is mobilizing them today.

TIM

I'll mobilize back.

MINNIE

(TIM goes into bathroom. BLOG takes a sheet of paper from a desk-blockshelf and carefully folds it into a paper airplane. He puts it into the travelling bag that TIM has packed. He puts the bag. MINNIE enters, with groceries, stamps her feet to get the snow off.)

BLOG

You have brought things!

MINNIE

It's snowing out.

BLOG

I saw! I saw!

MINNIE

It's beautiful, too.

BLOG

I have stopped studying. No more today.

MINNIE

What's the bag for?

BLOG

A transaction. Let us do something.

MINNIE

I should study. I have a class at three.

BLOG

Let us study the snow. I want to see the beauty.

(A pause. Sound of shower. WINNIE looks at TIM's bag.)

WINNIE

Let's go to the Museum of Natural History.

BLOG

Yes! Nature is good. You are good.

WINNIE

You're just fine, Blog.

BLOG

Let us go now, you and me.

WINNIE

I'll have to use Tim's galoshes again.

BLOG

Use my galoshes. They are <u>better</u>.

WINNIE

How about you?

BLOG

My shees are strong. (They exit.)

BLOG

Out the window! See all the whiteness!

WINNIE

That white crud is snow, darling.

BLOG

Truly.

CURTAIN

BLOG

let us admire the snow. I want to see the beauty.

(A pause. Sound of shovel. WINNIE looks at TIM's bag.)

WINNIE

let's go to the Museum of Natural History.

BLOG

Yes! Nature is good. You are good.

WINNIE

You're just fine, Blog.

BLOG

let us go now, you and me.

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My shoes are strong. (They exit.)

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Truly.

CURTAIN

Setting in detail: Mattresses for eight people cover the floor. Around them are ranged bookshelves, small dressers, a hi-fi set, a hatrack. On the hatrack are BLOG's clothes. TIM dresses from a small cabinet, to which a rod is attached holding his suit. The girls dress out of the closet in [redacted] off the bathroom R. (Closet and bathroom doors need not be onstage.) Off left is the fromt door and the kitchen. A kitchen chair is in the room, though, for goodness knows what reason. On a bookshelf by JEAN's mattress is a full-sized clay head she is modelling.

Characters in detail:

JEAN, 20. Artistic. Is currently a filing clerk with downtown insurance adjusters. [redacted] Left college after three years.

WINNIE, 21. Pretty, pleasant and sincere. Taking her M.A. Phi Beta Kappa.

TIM, 22. Fairly straightforward and personable. Honors.

JOE, 23. Loafing. Probably he has a broken heart, which nevertheless does not figure in this play. Flunked out. There was no reason for it.

BLOG, 22. High Honors.

SPECIAL EXPLANATION OF BLOG. Blog started all this. His talk and mannerisms were the keynote of the ideas and hopes of six months ago. A monolithic poseur, yet open and sincere, he is a perfect anal type. Studying for his M.A.

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a small cabinet, to which a rod is attached holding his suit.
The girls dress out of the closet in [illegible] off the
bathroom R. (Closet and bathroom doors need not be onstage.)
Off left is the front door and the kitchen. A kitchen chair
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a bookshelf by JEAN's mattress is a full-sized clay head she is
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That White Crud Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Characters.

Tim.

Winnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Blog.

Hal. (Tim's father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street, Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1957.

That White Card Is Snow, Darling

A One-Act

Characters.

Tim.

Winnie.

Joe.

Jean.

Miss.

Hal. (Tim's Father.)

Scene.

47 West 76th Street. Apartment 4B.

Time.

January 17, 1937.

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(BLACKOUT.

A voice recites:)

Come let us build us new gods,
New gods of alarm clocks and towers;
With children and cheese in a small city flat
We will sleep in a heap, and wear flowers.

(Silence; the theater is still dark. Then, monstrously, at great volume, we hear

THE GREAT GATE AT KIEV.)

Voices: Oh, no.

For God's sake, turn it off!

We're awake already!

Unhhhh.

(The music is turned down. The curtains part, revealing WINNIE, TIM, JEAN, JOE and BLOCK, who are variously arising from the mattresses that cover the stage.

"That White Crud Is Snow, Darling"

FLOODED